Dear Harold forgot to enclose this with the note thought you might find it interesting. Dotto

The FBI's Power

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WASHINGTON.

A previous column posed the question of whether Bobby Kennedy was responsible for the investigation of Bobby Baker and whether this may have been the chief reason for the feud between LBJ and RFK.

It also raised the question of who was telling the truth in so informing the President: Attorney General Clark, who said he could find no evidence that Bobby Kennedy had initiated the probe, or the FBI, which informed the President that Kennedy was behind the Baker investigation.

The whole business also raises important questions regarding the Constitutional right of Americans to protection from police state methods.

The eavesdropping on Fred Black's rooms at the Carlton Hotel was obviously political. It involved political pals of then Vice President Lyndon Johnson, including the late Sen. Bob Kerr of Oklahoma; Rep. Carl Albert of Oklahoma, the Democratic floor leader; Rep. Gerald Ford, the Republican floor leader; James Webb, head of the national space agency. Finally, the taps included the activities of Bobby Baker.

Nothing turned up to connect Vice President Johnson with Baker's operations, except for Baker's gift of a hi-fi set for Christmas some years earlier when Johnson was a Senator.

The bugging case, however, has had more political repercussions than probably any other in American history.

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Among other things, U. S. District Judge William Jones, one of our more courageous jurists, has ordered the FBI to produce the raw file in the Fred Black case.

What is surprising is that this is the first time in history the Justice Dept. has ever seen an FBI raw file. It is an amazing document, containing all sorts of innuendo, rumor and undigested facts.

The FBI is supposed to be a part of the Justice Dept., yet the fact Justice officials had never before seen a raw FBI file gives some indication of the power accumulated by the FBI and the possibility that it is becoming similar to some of the police bureaus of Europe, such as the Deuxieme Bureau of France.

The Deuxieme Bureau has long been known as more powerful than any French political figure because of its knowledge of the private lives of government officials.

The FBI is the most efficient police agency in the U. S. Nevertheless it cannot engage in politics; and several recent developments indicate that it does.

When it became known that the FBI had engaged in wholesale wiretapping for a period of years, Attorney General Clark requested J. Edgar Hoover to give him a list of all cases in which illegal evidence had been obtained by wiretapping and eavesdropping.

J. Edgar Hoover, who is supposed to be subordinate to the Attorney General, refused this request. He was polite about it; nevertheless categoric. He countered that the Attorney General give him a list of cases in which he was interested; then he would tell the Attorney General whether wiretaps had been used.

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This necessitated exhaustive preparation of a list for the FBI. A lot of work would have been saved had Clark's request been honored.

Hoover will probably continue to act contrary to the views of his boss, as long as he personally occupies a sacred position with the President. He does what military men do when they go up to Capitol Hill to undermine Secretary of Defense McNamara with Rep. Mendel Rivers (D-S.C.) President Johnson, having worked with Hoover to undercut the Attorney General when he, Johnson, was a Senator and having worked with brass hats in the Pentagon to undercut the Secretary of Defense when he, Johnson, was chairman of the Senate Preparedness Committee, understands this type of undercutting.

It means, however, that the Attorney General is not the boss of the Justice Dept., and the Secretary of Defense is not the boss of the Pentagon. This led to Secretary McNamara's recent resignation and there is every indication that the FBI has been trying to induce Ramsey Clark to resign by telling the President that Clark is soft on Stokely Carmichael, Black Power and crime in the streets.

Such is politics where you would least expect to find it—inside the FBI.